

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated in the following list. Additions are indicated by underlining and deletions by strikethroughs. This list replaces all previous lists.

Claims 1-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) A slat for use in a rolling shutter, comprising:

a body ~~extending between a first end and a second end, wherein at least a portion of the body has a profile~~ having a first edge, a second edge, a first side extending along a curve between the first edge and the second edge, and a second side extending along a curve between the first edge and the second edge;

an engaging track located at the first edge ~~of the profile~~ of the body, wherein the engaging track ~~has a profile extending~~ extends from the first edge along an arc ~~at least 180 degrees to a tip~~; and

a receptacle track located at the second edge ~~of the profile~~ of the body, wherein the receptacle track ~~has a profile including~~ includes a discontinuous articulation surface having a first concave articulation surface having an end adjacent the body and an end adjacent an aperture of an articulation area spaced a distance apart from a second concave articulation surface having an end adjacent the body and an end adjacent the aperture, ~~and~~ a gap disposed between ~~adjacent the ends~~ adjacent the body of the first and second articulation surfaces, and a lip adjacent to the first articulation surface extending away from the end adjacent the aperture of the first articulation surface towards the end adjacent the aperture of the second articulation surface.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

Application No. 10/802,385
Amendment Dated April 11, 2007
Reply to Office Action of November 13, 2006

16. (Currently amended) The slat of claim 13, wherein the arc ~~of the profile~~ of the engaging track has a radius that decreases towards the tip.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously presented) The slat of claim 13, wherein the curved surface is configured to receive the shaft of a screw for mounting a guide to the slat.

19-27. (Cancelled)

28. (New) A slat for displaceable engagement with a shutter casing, the slat comprising:
a body;

a receptacle track connected with the body and including a receptacle, lip and guard, wherein the receptacle is configured to receive a retention device that is configured to displaceably engage the shutter casing and wherein the lip and guard define a space configured to articulatably retain a second slat; and

an engaging track connected with the body and including a hook configured to couple with and articulate within a space of a third slat.

29. (New) The slat of claim 28, wherein the retention device includes a retention screw.

30. (New) The slat of claim 28, wherein the hook of the engaging track is offset from a longitudinal axis of the body by an acute angle.

31. (New) The slat of claim 30, wherein the acute angle is about 20 degrees.

32. (New) A slat for displaceable engagement with a shutter casing, the slat comprising:
a body;

a receptacle track connected with the body and including receptacle, lip and guard, wherein the receptacle is configured to receive a means for displaceably engaging the shutter

casing and wherein the lip and guard define a space configured to articulatably retain a second slat; and

an engaging track connected with the body and including a means for coupling with and articulating within a space of a third slat.

33. (New) A roller shutter for displaceable engagement with a shutter casing, the roller shutter comprising:

a first slat; and

a second slat;

wherein the first slat includes:

a body;

a receptacle track connected with the body and including a receptacle, lip and guard, wherein the receptacle is configured to receive a retention device that is configured to displaceably engage the shutter casing and wherein the lip and guard define a space configured to articulatably retain the second slat; and

wherein the second slat includes:

a second body; and

an engaging track connected with the second body and including a hook configured to couple with and articulate within the space of the first slat.

34. (New) The slat of claim 32, wherein the receptacle track and the engaging track are further configured so that movement between the receptacle track and an engaging track along a longitudinal axis of the first and second bodies is limited to about 0.043 inches or less.